

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY

1. HIGHLIGHTS. SUNDAY NYTIMES FEATURES GRAND JURORS REPORTED TO HAVE CONCLUDED NIXON WAS INVOLVED IN COVER-UP; BID TO JUDGE SIRICA FOLLOWED ADVICE A PRESIDENT CAN'T BE INDICTED. WASHPOST HEADLINE SAYS JURY RECOMMENDED TO SIRICA ITS REPORT BE SENT TO HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

1A. PAPERS ALSO FRONTPAGE ISRAEL AND SYRIA WILL SEND TEAMS TO PARLEY IN US; ALSO HEATH COURTS LIBERAL PARTY SUPPORT. NYTIMES PAGE 3 HAS GELB, US URGES NEW ARMS-TALK APPROACH--THIS STORY'S FULL TEXT BEING SENT BY SEPARATE CABLE.

1B. INSIDE STORIES INCLUDE: SOVIET EMIGRANTS SAID TO DECREASE THIS YEAR; GALLUP POLL FINDS NIXON NEAR HIS LOW POINT IN PUBLIC APPROVAL, CURRENT FIGURE 27 PERCENT; WASHPOST HAS PARIS BRIEF REPORTING THAT LE MONDE SAYS TALKS--BEGUN AT INITIATIVE OF SECSTATE KISSINGER--HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BETWEEN US AND SPAIN TO
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BRING MADRID INTO ASSOCIATION WITH NATO.

1C. WASHPOST REPORTS TWO SUBCOMMITTEE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS WILL BEGIN HEARINGS THIS WEEK ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICIES:

MUSKIE'S PANEL WILL HEAR SCHLESINGER MARCH 4 AT CLOSED SESSION OF ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE; MARCH 7 SYMINGTON'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AGREEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS ABROAD WILL BEGIN HEARINGS ON CHANGING SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF US COMMITMENTS TO EUROPE. WASHPOST ALSO HAS STORY FROM CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY ON DEBATE OVER WHETHER CONGRESS SHOULD APPROVE FIRING OF EIGHT MISSILES, STRIPPED OF THEIR NUCLEAR HARDWARE, FROM MONTANA ACROSS IDAHO OREGON TO PHOENIX ISLANDS SOUTHWEST OF HAWAII, FIRED SEPARATELY OVER TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

2. KISSINGER. NYTIMES GWERTZMAN RIYADH REPORTS AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID ISRAEL AND SYRIA HAD AGREED TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH TO CONTINUE INDEPENDENT DISCUSSION WITH KISSINGER ON ACHIEVING A SEPARATION OF TROOPS IN GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA, NEWSMEN HAVING BEEN INFORMED ON FLIGHT FROM DAMASCUS TO RIYADH, AND TOLD THAT A HUGE GAP STILL EXISTED ON TERMS FOR A SYRIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD. ARRIVING IN RIYADH KISSINGER SAID HE HAD COME TO REPORT TO KING FAISAL ON HIS TALKS IN DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV, SECRETARY ADDING IN PRESENCE OF SAQQAF THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE IN ESTABLISHING A NEGOTIATING PROCESS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA AND US WILL SPARE NO EFFORT FOR DISENGAGEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT, SINCE WE CONSIDER THIS A FIRST STEP TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. KISSINGER ADDED HE WILL ALSO STRESS THE ALREADY CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND US; LATER KISSINGER LEFT FOR AMMAN TO SEE KING HUSSEIN AND SPEND THE NIGHT. KISSINGER HAD SUGGESTED WASHINGTON FORUM TO ASSAD, SAME DAY MEIR ACCEPTED IDEA AND LAST NIGHT ASSAD CONFIRMED ARRANGEMENT, ACCORDING AMERICAN OFFICIALS ON PLANE. ISRAELI DELEGATION EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS; SYRIAN DELEGATION MAY OVERLAP IN WASHINGTON BUT NO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS ARE ANTICIPATED.

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2A. WASHPOST BERGER AMMAN ALSO REPORTS AGREEMENT TO HOLD INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH KISSINGER SERVING AS INTERMEDIARY, THIS BEING FIRST TIME THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO HOLD FORMAL TALKS, EVEN INDIRECT ONES. IF IN WASHINGTON THE TWO SIDES MOVE CLOSE ENOUGH, SAID US OFFICIALS, KISSINGER WOULD PROBABLY RESUME HIS SHUTTLING BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM TO OBTAIN NECESSARY DECISIONS FROM THE TOP LEADERS. ACCORDING

BERGER, ALTHOUGH US OFFICIALS REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE

LINK, AT LEAST SOME FORM OF TALKS ON THE SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT IS AN ARAB REQUIREMENT FOR AGREEMENT BY THE OIL-PRODUCING STATES TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ON THE US, BERGER ADDING A HIGH US OFFICIAL SAID ANY SCHEDULE THAT MAY HAVE EXISTED FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO WOULD UNAFFECTED BY TODAY'S EVENTS IN SYRIA. NOTING THAT GROMYKO WAS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS, BERGER REPORTS THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS PROFESSED TO BE PERPLEXED ABOUT WHAT MOSCOW INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH WITH GROMYKO'S SHUTTLE. IN THE WASHINGTON TALKS WITH SYRIA AND ISRAEL THE SOVIET ROLE WOULD BE SLIGHT, WHICH PLEASES THE ISRAELIS, AND TALKS WILL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH KISSINGER, WHICH PLEASES THE SYRIANS, BERGER CONCLUDES.

3. SOVIET EMIGRANTS. NYTIMES HEDRICK SMITH MOSCOW REPORTS RATE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION DROPPED OFF CONSIDERABLY IN FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, SMITH ADDING THE REPORTED DECLINE HAS PROMPTED UNCERTAINTY IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES OVER WHETHER KREMLIN MIGHT HAVE CURTAILED EMIGRATION OF JEWS SOMEWHAT TO TRY TO INDUCE THE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO APPROVE TARIFF AND CREDIT CONCESSIONS FOR SOVIET UNION BUT THE DIPLOMATS WHO REPORTED THE DECLINE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM NYTIMES SAID THE TREND WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY PRONOUNCED TO REACH A DEFINITE CONCLUSION YET. ONE OF LATEST TO BE GRANTED AN EXIT VISA IS PAVEL LITVINOV, 33-YEAR-OLD SCIENTIST WHO HAS OFTEN PROTESTED AGAINST TREATMENT OF SAKHAROV. DONALDSON

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